

Fairmount Indigo Network Community Forum

Presentation

The Perkins Community Center
December 14, 2019

James Jennings, PhD
Professor Emeritus
Tufts University

Acknowledgements...

The Boston Foundation

- Orlando Watkins, Vice President of Programs
- Soni Gupta, Neighborhoods & Housing Director
- Gabrielle Sims, (former) Neighborhoods & Housing Program Association
- Luc Shuster, Boston Indicators Director
- Sandy Kendall, Senior Communications Manager

The Research Team

- Dr. Lisette DeSouza, Associate Research Scientist, Wellesley University
- Trina Jackson, Master of Public Policy Candidate, Tufts University
- Catalina Tang Yan, Doctoral Candidate, School of Social Work, Boston University
- Dr. James Jennings, Professor Emeritus, Tufts University

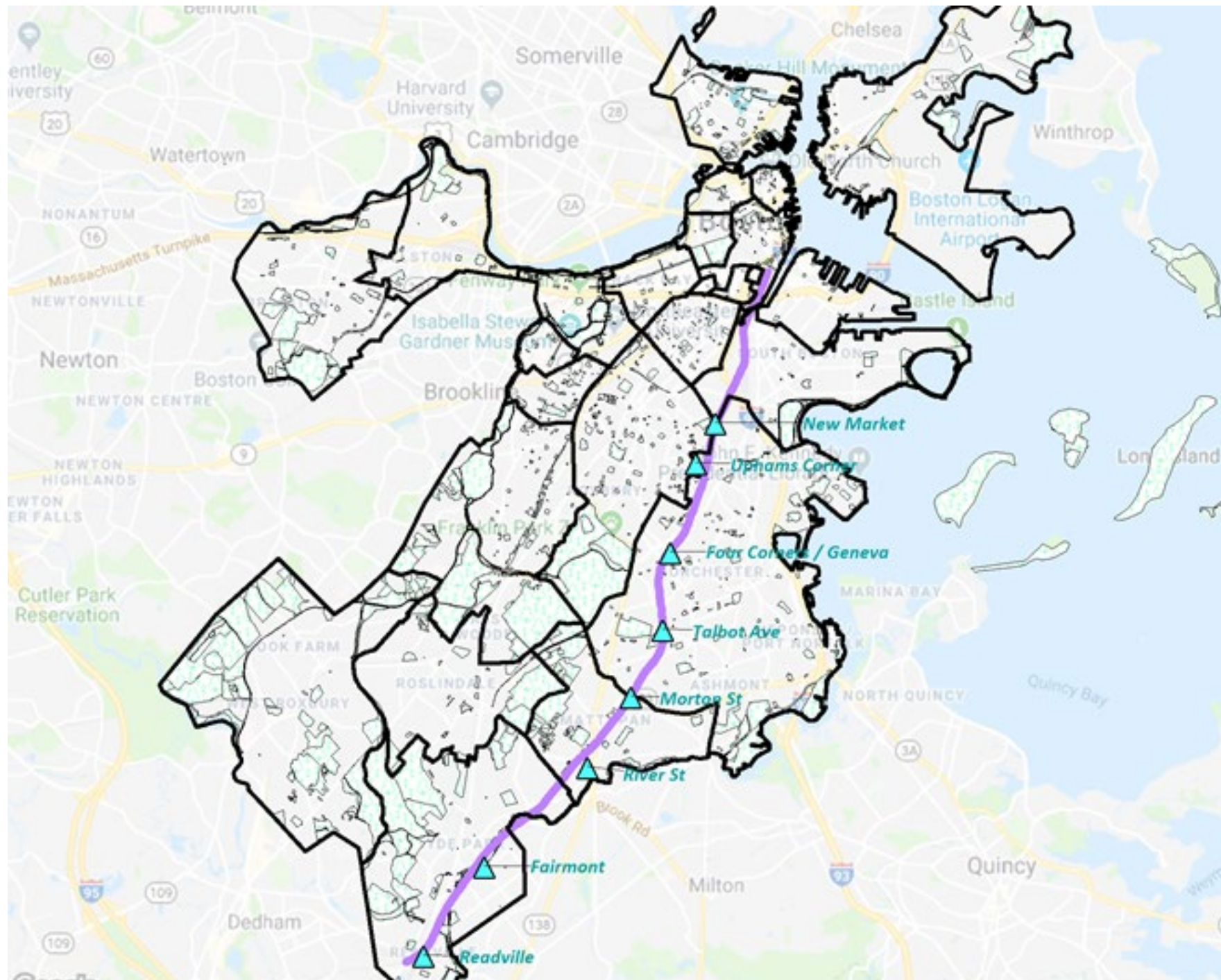
Interviewees and Focus Group Participants / Fairmount Indigo Network

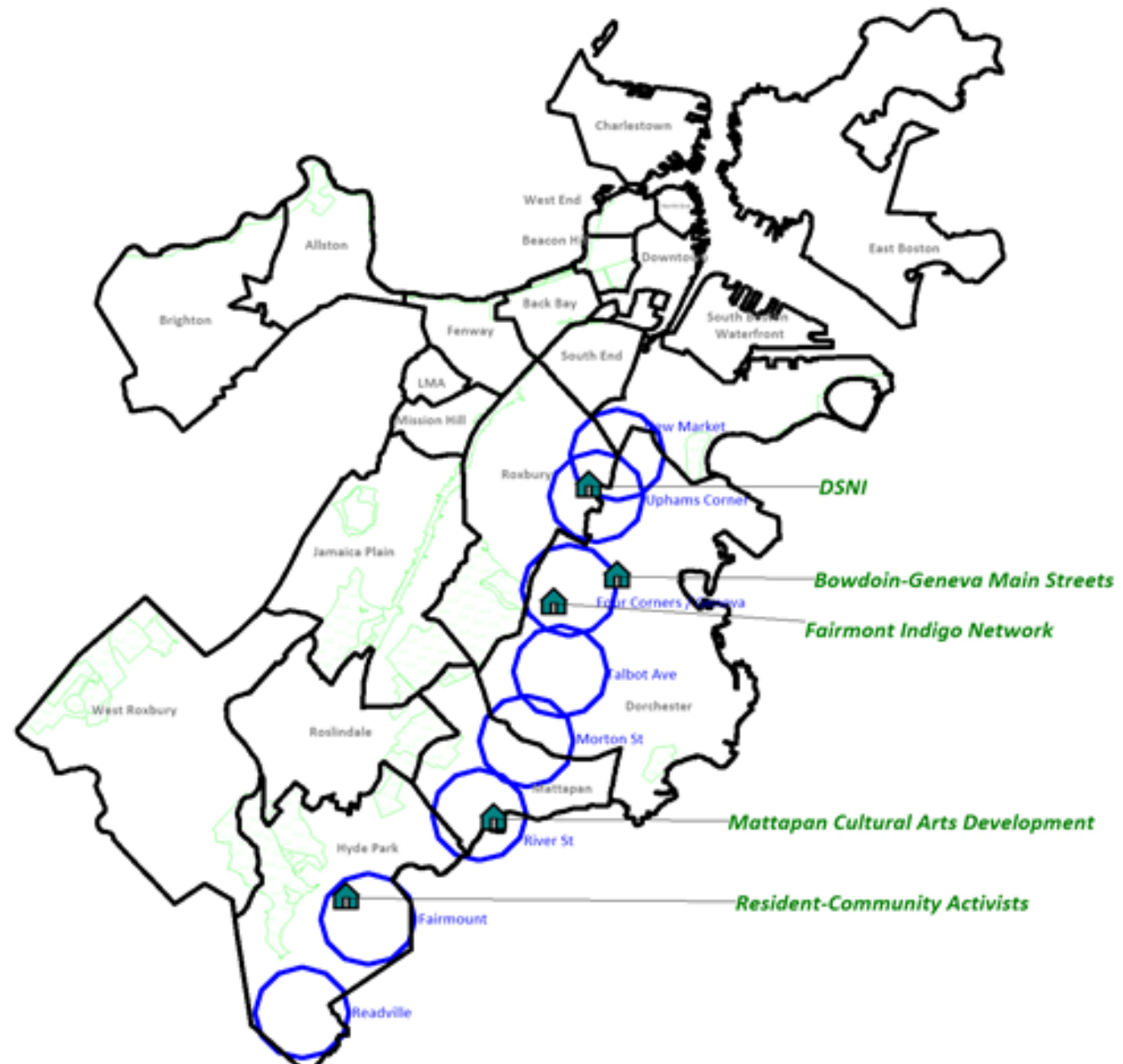
The Report includes...

- History and background of strategies and activities associated with Fairmount Line and communities
- Accomplishments
- Challenges
- Lessons learned and 9 potential next steps

Methodology...

- Data (census and agency data)
- 5 Focus Groups
- 23 Interviews
- Archival analysis / select bibliography





What we heard about accomplishments...

- Range of community-oriented activities took place over the years...

Vacant lots

Urban gardening

Arts and culture

Workforce activities

Building affordable housing

Improving public transportation and transportation justice

Working with youth and elderly

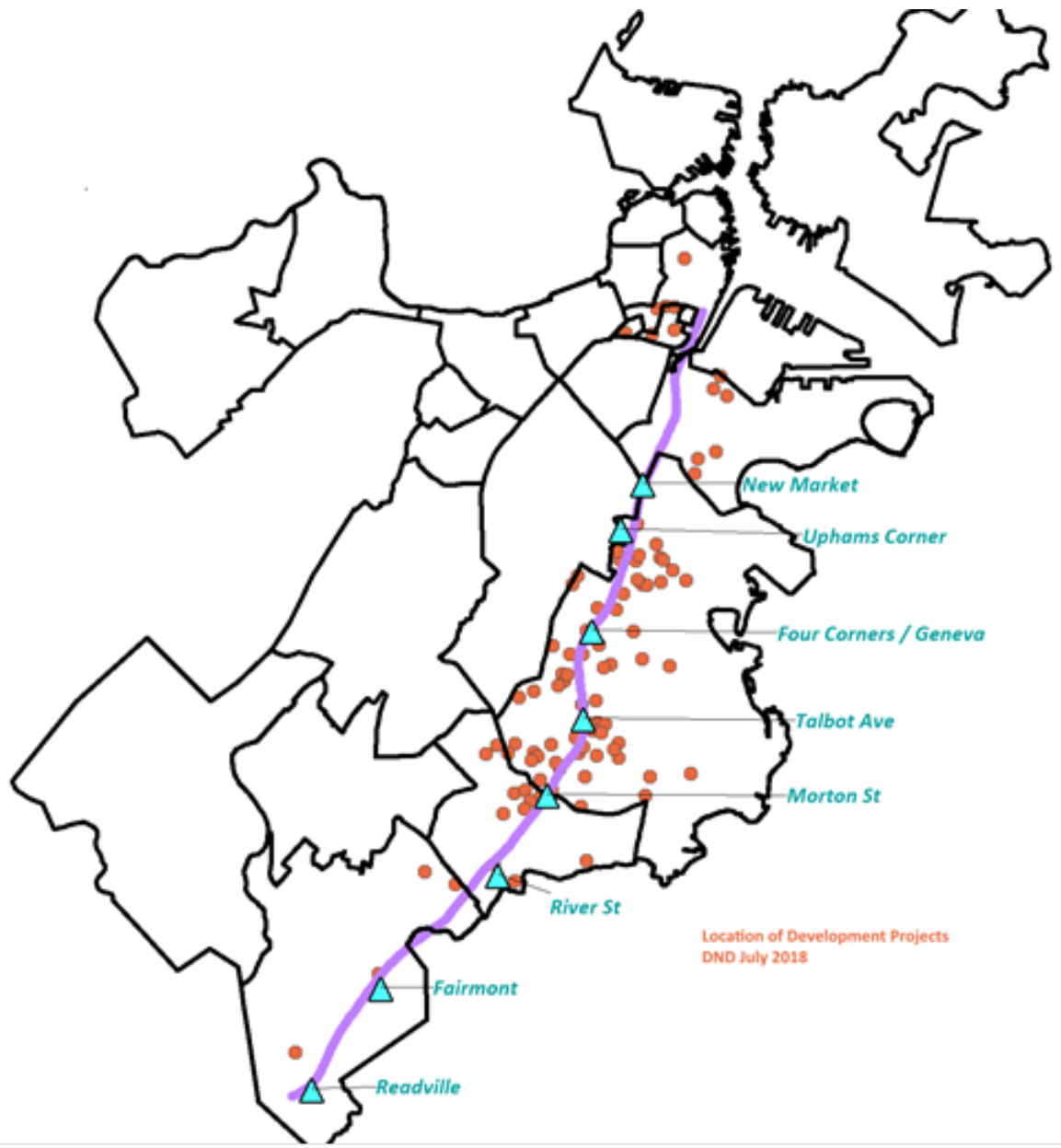
- Physical improvements in transportation
- Affordable housing
- Connecting residents to downtown jobs
- Civic coalitions / Stronger community networks
- Urban agriculture

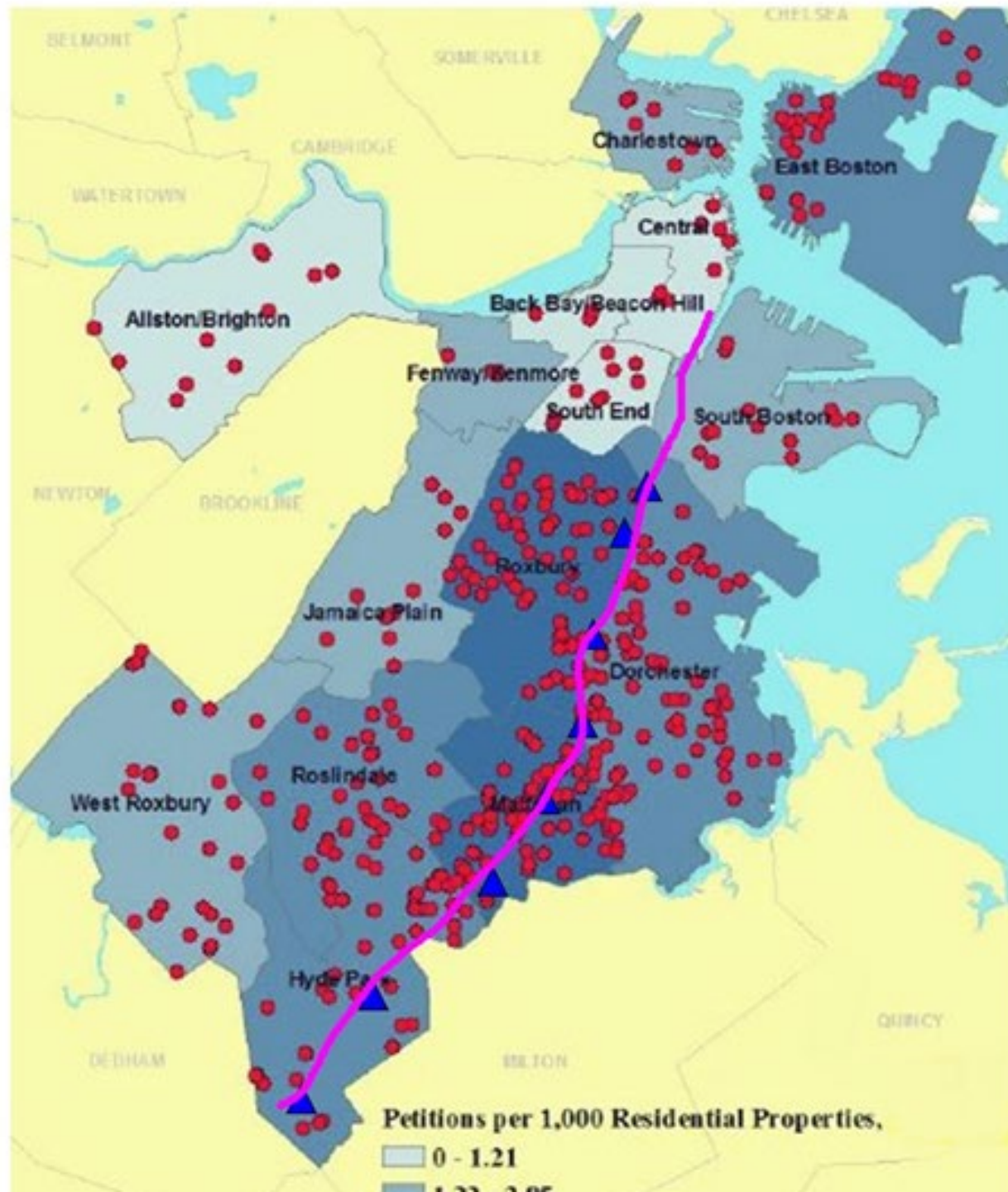
What we heard about challenges...

- Continual need for physical improvements and access along the Fairmount Line
- Stronger connections between employers and residents
- Greater emphasis on **sustained** resident involvement, **integrated with decision-making**
- Stronger connections between generating economic opportunities and transportation
- Arts and culture for community development **and** benefit of long-time residents
- Displacement and gentrification

Responses and 9 potential next steps...

Transit Special Protection Zones





Housing Court Data Report, Project HOPE, DSNI, HomeStart (2017)

Supports for elderly homeowners

- Information about city services related to property tax relief and other benefits
- Community organizing to raise awareness and prevention of predatory lending and real estate practices
- Training opportunities for elder homeowners

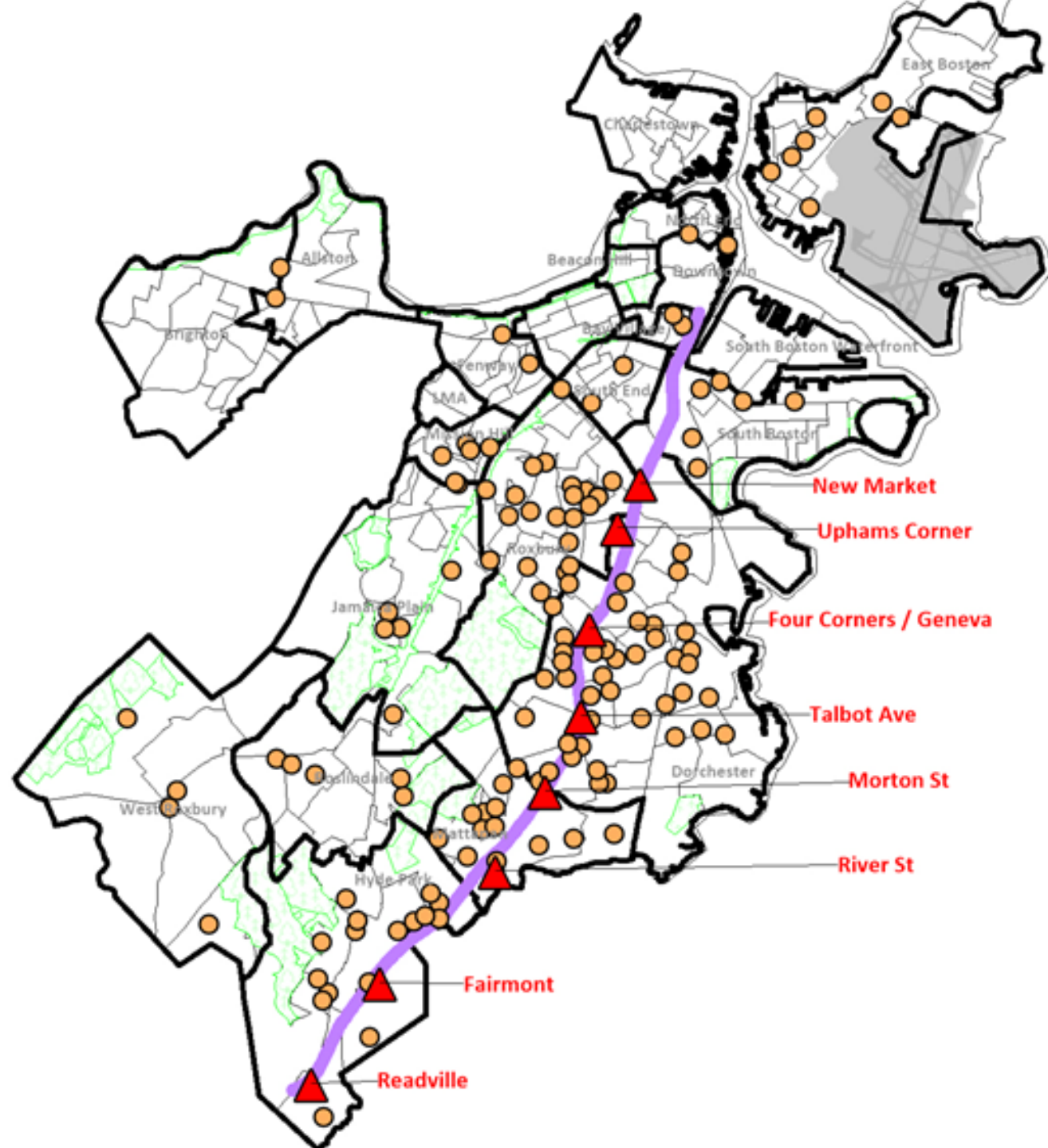
Expansion and strengthening of neighborhood-based businesses

- enhancing potential markets for local businesses
- sub-contracts
- joint venturing
- capacity building

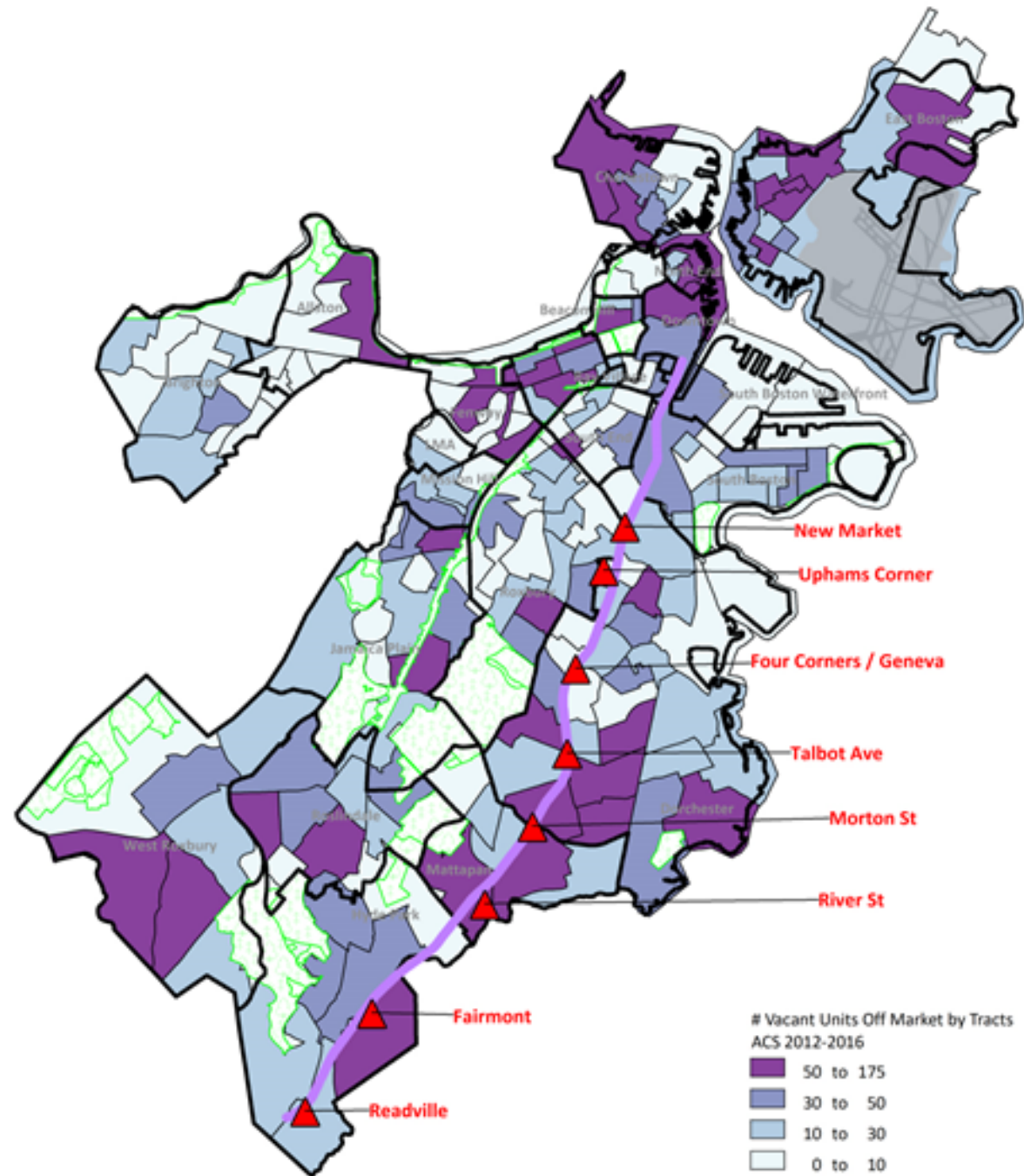
Connecting youth to economic opportunities; triggering and encouraging entrepreneurship...

- introduce students to transit equity issues
- explore entrepreneurial opportunities for youth related to transportation and community development
- jobs; workforce training; apprenticeships

Community land trusts and cooperative homeownership



Distressed Properties,
DND (July 2018)



Arts as organizing tool for youth empowerment

- Who, or what processes, are determining a vision for arts and placemaking, and how will such vision(s) be pursued?
- Who, or which sectors, are not part of such visioning and why not?
- How will decision making about the funding and implementation, and evaluation, of arts and placemaking initiatives be made?
- How will proposed arts and placemaking initiatives impact current and resident-based artists and arts?

Community-centered organizing

- Involving residents as the movers and decision makers about visions for the neighborhood.
- Organizing in order to influence policies and policy narratives, but also to build a sense of community among residents.
- Emphasizing a strong equity orientation as “glue” to develop a sense of unity among different community interests, where all voices are heard and integral to decision making.
- Guaranteeing space for new groups to participate in public discourses about the nature and resolution of problems.
- Incorporating popular education, broadly defined

Expanding public education

- community-friendly workshops to inform renters and homeowners about neighborhood developments and issues
- forums to raise public consciousness and networking related to social and economic changes, and opportunities
- greater connections between community-based organizations and local public schools

Building cross-neighborhood collaborative strategies

- consider neighborhood differences and needs along the Fairmount Corridor line
- explore issues that can bring communities together
- develop strategies for greater resident participation and buy-in to neighborhood activities



FAIRMOUNT INDIGO NETWORK COMMUNITY FORUM & CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
9:00am – 12pm

The Perkins Community Center
155 Talbot Avenue (next to the Talbot Ave station)

Learn about ongoing initiatives and strategies to improve the quality of life for residents of **Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park**. **Get involved in affordable housing, environment, good jobs and transportation justice!**

Featuring a presentation by Dr. James Jennings

Food and childcare will be provided.
The Perkins Community Center is ADA accessible.

Contact: fairmountindigonetwork@gmail.com

